



Data Protection Officer
Freedom of Information
NW Leicestershire District Council
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Date: 06 May 2021

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST 1581

I write further to your email dated 13 April 2020.

Your request has been dealt with under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, explained on our [freedom of information](#) page.

Your request:

I am writing to make a Freedom of Information request concerning your Council's expenditure on Discretionary Housing Payments (DHPs) for the 2019/20 financial year.

I am aware some information on DHPs is submitted to the Department for Work & Pensions in its analysis of End of Year returns from local authorities. This includes the total number of awards, DHP financial expenditure and Government contribution original allocation. These monitoring returns provide details of the purpose of the DHP award, such as to secure and move to alternative accommodation and rental costs, split by the welfare form for which households have been affected.

What is not included in this information is the amount and value of DHPs applied for which are not awarded, or if only partial amounts are given. I am requesting this information, as detailed in Table 1 below, and also request splits of this data by the age band of the claimant. If possible, please can the figures just for those where the claimant is aged between 16 and 30 be provided.

Separately, I am requesting information on your Council's use of rent guarantee schemes: these are typically used to help people facing homelessness by providing a written guarantee to the landlord to cover any unpaid rent/damage. The information I require is written below, but also in a Table 2:

- Total amount of rent guarantees issued in 2019/20
 - How many rent guarantees were issued to care leavers
 - Age bands of those issued rent guarantees

Our response:

I can confirm that we hold the majority of the information you have requested. However, complying with this request would exceed the cost limit of £450. Where we estimate that complying with a request will cost in excess of £450 or 18 hours of officer time we will refuse this request under section 12 of the FOIA.

In this case, the breakdown of DHP applications in is not readily available on our systems to the extent that you have requested. To complete your request we would be required to investigate each

application individually and manually extracting the information. This level of interrogation, considering the number of applications, is estimated to far exceed 18 hours of work.

When applying section 12, the Council has a duty to advise customers of ways to reduce the scope of the request to bring it within the cost limit. In this instance, we would be able to provide the information related to rent guarantees, along with the total number and value of DHP applications and a breakdown of the number of successful DHPs by purpose.

Please also note that we do not record if an application was partially or wholly successful. Therefore “successful” applications would include both categories.

The supply of information in response to a freedom of information request does not confer the right to re-use the information. UK copyright law allows information supplied for the purposes of private study and non-commercial research to be used without permission. Information supplied can also be re-used for the purposes of news reporting except for in the case of photographs.

GOING FORWARD

If you are dissatisfied with the information supplied please feel free to contact me on the number above for any queries in relation to this response. Please note that in responding to further enquiries I can only comment on the information contained within this correspondence and cannot provide any further information that may pertain to an additional FOIA request.

Please remember to quote the Authority’s four digit reference number given at the top of this email in any future communications.

If you remain dissatisfied following the conclusion of the above informal review, you have the right to ask for an internal review. A request for a review whether formal or informal should be submitted within two calendar months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be sent to DPO@NWLeicestershire.gov.uk or the address above.

Further details on our appeals and complaints procedure can be found on our website [here](#).

If you remain dissatisfied following the conclusion of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at accessicoinformation@ico.org.uk.

Yours sincerely

Mackenzie Keatley
Information Governance Officer